

For Immediate Release

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Voters Fail to Renew Police Services Levy by Only One Vote

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The City of Happy Valley, Oregon announced today that the City's voters failed to renew the Five-Year Police Services Local Option Tax, Measure #3-462, by only one vote. The failure of this levy has resulted in no dedicated funding for police services in the City. This was a surprise to City officials considering the history of the previous three local-option levies, which all passed with wide margins. The Happy Valley City Council discussed the concern in detail at last night's City Council meeting and will continue talks to formulate a plan for moving forward from this result, which will include: polling, research, police service reductions and educating the community for the May 2015 election.

"The City Council is extremely concerned and disappointed about the levy failure. The impact to the community will be severe. If the levy is not passed in May, the result will be no police department." stated Mayor Lori DeRemer.

Measure #3-462 asked voters to approve a five-year local option property tax of \$1.65 per \$1,000 of assessed value to maintain dedicated police services, which are provided by the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office under a contract.

The levy was all or nothing, meaning that the failure will leave Happy Valley without dedicated police services. The ramifications will ultimately result in no police department for the City.

"We will begin by listening to the voters, to better understand what they believed they were voting for — or against — in Measure #3-462. Based on their feedback, we will develop a new measure to be placed on the May 2015 ballot which reflects their goals for the city and its long-standing commitment to providing high-quality public safety services," Mayor DeRemer stated.